Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (Currently Amended). A method for treating conditions wherein TNF, either endogenously formed or exogenously administered, is to be eliminated from the body or its effect in the body is to be antagonized, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a pharmaceutically acceptable composition, the active ingredient of which is a protein capable of interacting with TNF so as to inhibit the binding of TNF to cells and to inhibit the cytotoxic effect of TNF, said protein comprising the following amino acid sequence:
Asp-Ser-Val-Cys-Pro-Gln-Gly-Lys-Tyr-Ile-His-Pro-Gln-X-Asn-Ser
(SEQ ID NO:1)
wherein X is an unidentified amino acid residue, said protein being of sufficient purity to allow determination of the N-terminal amino acid sequence thereof.

2 (Currently Amended). A method for reducing the cytotoxic activity of TNF, comprising bringing into contact with TNF a pharmaceutically acceptable composition, the active ingredient of which is a protein capable of interacting with TNF so as to inhibit the binding of TNF to cells and to

inhibit the cytotoxic effect of TNF, said protein comprising the following amino acid sequence:

Asp-Ser-Val-Cys-Pro-Gln-Gly-Lys-Tyr-Ile-His-Pro-Gln-X-Asn-Ser

(SEQ ID NO:1)

wherein X is an unidentified amino acid residue, said protein being of sufficient purity to allow determination of the N-terminal amino acid sequence thereof.

3-5 (Cancelled)

6 (Currently Amended). A method for treating conditions wherein TNF, either endogenously formed or exogenously administered, is to be eliminated from the body or its effect in the body antagonized, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment an effective amount of a pharmaceutically acceptable composition, the active ingredient of which is a polypeptide capable of interacting with TNF so as to inhibit the binding of TNF to its receptors and to inhibit the cytotoxic effect of TNF, said polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence Asp-Ser-Val-Cys-Pro-Gln-Gly-Lys-Tyr-Ile-His-Pro-Gln-X-Asn-Ser, where X is an unidentified amino acid residue, said polypeptide being of sufficient purity to allow determination of the N-terminal amino acid sequence thereof, or functional derivatives or active fractions thereof, said active fraction being a fragment of the polypeptide chain of the isolated polypeptide

alone or together with associated molecules or residues linked thereto and having the ability to inhibit the binding of TNF to its receptors and to inhibit the cytotoxic effect of TNF.

7-9 (Cancelled)

10 (Currently Amended). A method for reducing the cytotoxic activity of TNF, comprising bringing into contact with TNF a pharmaceutically acceptable composition, the active ingredient of which is a polypeptide capable of interacting with TNF so as to inhibit the binding of TNF to its receptors and to inhibit the cytotoxic effect of TNF, said polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence Asp-Ser-Val-Cys-Pro-Gln-Gly-Lys-Tyr-Ile-His-Pro-Gln-X-Asn-Ser, where X is an unidentified amino acid residue, said polypeptide being of sufficient purity to allow determination of the N-terminal amino acid sequence thereof, or functional derivatives or active fractions thereof, said active fraction being a fragment of the polypeptide chain of the isolated polypeptide alone or together with associated molecules or residues linked thereto and having the ability to inhibit the binding of TNF to its receptors and to inhibit the cytotoxic effect of TNF, said polypeptide being of sufficient purity to allow determination of the N-terminal amino acid sequence thereof.